Zone begins on the date that the employee received a specific notice of separation by reduction in force.

- (c) Eligibility for special selection priority as an eligible displaced employee of the former Panama Canal Zone expires on the earliest of:
- (1) One year after the effective date of the reduction in force;
- (2) The date that the employee receives a career, career-conditional, or excepted appointment without time limit in any agency at any grade level; or
- (3) The date that the employee is separated involuntarily for cause prior to the effective date of the reduction in force action.

#### § 330.1204 Selection.

- (a) If two or more individuals apply for a vacancy and the hiring agency determines the individuals to be wellqualified, the agency has the discretion to select any of the individuals eligible for priority under subpart G of this part (the Interagency Career Transition Assistance Plan), under subpart K of this part (Federal Employment Priority Consideration for Displaced employees of the District of Columbia Department of Corrections), or under subpart L of this part (Interagency Career Transition Assistance for Displaced Former Panama Canal Zone Employees).
- (b) Except as provided in §330.705(c), when filling a position from outside the agency's workforce, the agency must select:
- (1) Current or former agency employees eligible under the agency's Reemployment Priority List described in subpart B of this part; then
- (2) At the agency's option, any other former employee displaced from the agency (under appropriate selection procedures, then:
- (3) Current or former Federal employees displaced from other agencies who are eligible under subparts G, K, or L of this part, and then:
- (4) Any other candidate (under appropriate selection procedures) (optional).

## PART 332—RECRUITMENT AND SE-LECTION THROUGH COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 1302, 3301, 3302; E.O. 10577, 3 CFR, 1954–1958 Comp., p. 218.

SOURCE:  $33\ FR\ 12426$ , Sept. 4, 1968, unless otherwise noted.

## **Subpart A—General Provisions**

# § 332.101 General policy of competition.

(a) Examinations for entrance into the competitive service shall be open competitive, except that OPM may authorize noncompetitive examinations when sufficient competent persons do not compete.